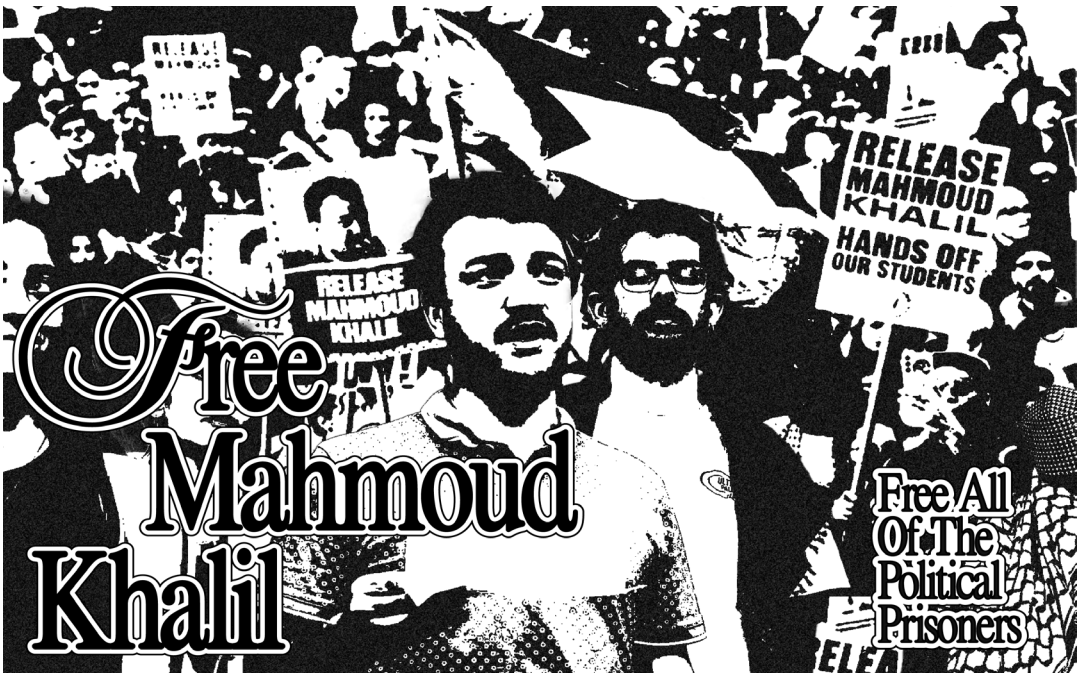
Time Place & Manner

THE STUDENTS' ALTERNATIVE NEWS OUTLET ISSUE 01 APRIL 11 2025



CRIMINALIZING RESISTANCE IS CRIMINALIZING EXISTENCE: HONORING AND LEARNING FROM PALESTINIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS

This year's Palestinian Political Prisoners Day—observed annually on April 17—overlaps with a new day of observance: one year, to the day, that the first Gaza Solidarity Encampment was set up by organizers at Columbia University, sparking a global movement of over 200 solidarity encampments. 11 months since the "Hands Off Rafah" AI-generated Instagram story went viral, the Zionist entity has relaunched its ground offensive on Rafah, more brutal than ever, but this time there is near silence in the media: the result of news outlets banned, hundreds of journalists martyred, Palestinians' social media acccounts censored, and Western liberals moving on.

The "ceasefire," if there ever was one, definitively ended over three weeks ago. Gazans on the ground say this is the darkest period in the entire genocide. "There's no safe place . . . each minute a bomb drop[s] . . . the borders are closed, which means the price of veggies, food, water, gas, everything has gone up," said Yusuf, 16 (@reachyusuf). The situation was abhorrent before the ceasefire. Now it's beyond words.

Though no equal comparison, we are seeing traces of what Palestinians on the ground living under occupation have known and resisted for decades emerge here: no due process, overt political motivations to silence the Palestinian cause, and "detainment" being just a euphemism away from kidnapping.

Apartheid "Israel" is devoid of due process or legal rights for Palestinians living under occupation. For Palestinians, there is no such thing as a fair trial or free speech. They can be, and often are, imprisoned for anything that the Israeli occupiers characterize and codify as criminal; preserving their culture or resisting occupation in any way: making art, throwing stones, or armed resistance.

The legacy of political prisoners in Palestine carries decades of steadfastness and resistance against what is now being reflected back at us here in Amerika, à la Césaire's imperial boomerang. But we mustn't forget to center Palestine. The narrative fight that the first generation of Palestinian political prisoners had to battle perhaps show us something that the solidarity movement finds itself having to struggle with now. In Professor Esmail Nashif's 2008 paper, "Palestinian Political Prisoners: Identity and Community," Palestinian political prisoner Aisha 'Wdih, imprisoned in 1969, said:

"For my generation, we had to fight for the recognition that we were political captives ... we were not criminals. … We are freedom fighters, we are Palestinians."

STUDENTS, POLITICAL PRISONERS, AND YOU

On March 8th, 2025, ICE abducted a student named Mahmoud Khalil.

On March 25th, they did the same to Rümeysa Öztürk and Alireza Doroudi. Khalil was a permanent resident, while Öztürk and Doroudi had their student visas revoked without warning or due process, and all three were stolen from their apartments or their neighborhoods' streets without even being charged with any crimes. Like many before them, and likely many to come, they were changed from college students to political prisoners by nothing but the brute force of state violence.

Anti-Palestine sentiment is a clear factor in these kidnappings, but the victims had a wide range of involvement in activism. Khalil was a prominent activist and a lead negotiator for Columbia's student encampment, and he was singled out by a far-right harassment campaign calling for his deportation in the days before his kidnapping because of his support for Palestine. Öztürk appears to have been targeted simply because she attended some protests and co-authored an op-ed in her college's student newspaper criticizing the university president's inadequate response to the genocide in Gaza. Doroudi may have been even less

MORE ON BACK SIDE

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

involved; according to both his lawyer and the local SJP chapter, he never even attended any anti-government protests.

It's important to be clear about what's happening: people are being abducted at the whim of a government that has decided their freedom is a threat to its unchecked cruelty and imperialism, particularly its oppression of Palestine. This is not the first time US society has marked supporters of Palestine as acceptable targets of violence, but the Trump administration is taking the groundwork laid by actions like college administrators' repression of encampments and drastically escalating it. The government wants us to see this and be afraid—to know we could be next—so we fall in line.

And, yeah, I won't lie, it's scary. If you feel afraid, that's nothing to be ashamed of—it's a justified reaction to a dangerous situation.

Despite all its brutality, though, ICE can't stop people speaking out. Khalil dictated a letter from an ICE detainment center, and other students who have been forced to flee the country, like Momodou Taal and Ranjani Srinivasan, have shared their experiences as well. Their words remind us that the fight for freedom—for Mahmoud Khalil and Rümeysa Öztürk and Alireza Doroudi, for the other political prisoners, for a free Palestine, for all of us—is not over, and it won't be over as long as there are people brave enough to feel afraid and fight back anyway.

You can be one of those people, and so can your friends and allies. Know your rights, and make sure others know them, too. (There's an article on your rights with ICE in this very issue!) Make plans with friends so you know what to do if ICE shows up on campus or knocks at your door. If you're a US citizen, consider stepping up in roles where non-citizens would be more at risk. Most importantly, understand that the fascists are coming for all of us, sooner or later. Even if we're afraid, now is the time to have each others' backs and fight like hell.

"In Gaza, families live in constant fear for their loved ones, knowing all too well that the dangers are not just in bombs, but in the unknown. The moment someone disappears, the mind begins to spiral into the darkest possibilities, where hope fades and dread takes over. Bader's family was no different. With every passing day, they feared the worst—that he had been killed or imprisoned like thousands of others since 7 October. Many of those taken were civilians who had never held a weapon, yet they were treated as criminals in the eyes of the occupation."

***Hala Salah**, a young writer in North Gaza*
Legacies in Blood (Oct. 2024)

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AGAINST ICE

Since the detention of our comrade Mahmoud Khalil on March 8th, student activists at universities across the nation have been kidnapped by the US government, with hundreds of international students having their visas revoked. One of the agencies responsible for these abductions is the U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement agency - ICE. What is new is the intensity and scale of ICE detentions on university campuses specifically. For context, the Trump administration has begun using a less frequently used provision of the Immigrations and Nationality Act that allows the Secretary of State Marco Rubio to detain people he personally deems "would compromise a compelling United States foreign policy interest".

The main way we protect ourselves is by building stronger, more resilient communities, and by politicizing those around us to fight for a Free Palestine, and against all forms of oppression by the state. This requires educating ourselves and others, and joining organizations that are building independent mass power. In the event of an encounter with ICE, however, it is important that we are all aware of what to expect, and that we know to invoke our legal rights.

First, you won't always know that they are ICE agents. ICE agents often pretend to be people they are not. They are likely to be in plain clothing, and masked. You should ask if the agents attempting to stop you are ICE agents or not, and if they are, you should ask whether you are free to leave. If the response is affirmative you should leave promptly. If you are in a private space, such as behind a locked office door, or in your home, ask to for a warrant to be slid underneath the door. ICE agents will often try to trick you by providing an administrative warrant. Nothing aside from a judicial warrant signed by a judge and containing the correct address and name is sufficient.

Most importantly, throughout your interaction, you have the right to remain silent, and the right to speak to a lawyer. You do NOT have to share any information about where you were born, what your immigration status is, or your criminal record. You should ask to speak to a lawyer instead of answering questions, invoke your right to remain silent, and avoid lying as this can be used against you in further proceedings.

If you think you are at risk you should prepare ahead of time by organizing your personal documents (including a signed G-28) and making a plan for medical, childcare, and financial needs.

RESOURCES:
Alameda County Immigration Legal Education Partnership (ACILEP): If you have recently seen, interacted with, or been detained by Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE), contact the ACILEP hotline (510) 241-4011 (Mon-Fri, 6am-6pm).
More info on KYR for ICE: immigrantdefenseproject.org/for-communities
Hang this document at your door to prepare for law enforcement: bit.ly/WHOSTHERE

TAKE ACTION

Wednesday, April 16
5 PM in Wheeler 315
Town Hall Against Repression and for Divestment by UAW 4811's Palestine Solidarity Working Group.

Thursday, April 17
12:30-2:00 Sproul
[FSJP teach in] Berkeley Faculty Freedom to Learn: National Day of Action

Thursday, April 17
5:00-7:00 PM
Teach in on the student movement for divestment from Apartheid South Africa
RSVP at tinyurl.com/divestmentSA

Saturday, April 19
2:00-6:00 PM 401 26th St.
Palestinian Prisoners Day

Saturday, April 19
Berkeley City College
4th Annual Berkeley Copwatch Conference.
NationalCopwatchConference.com.

Monday, April 28
7 PM at 1231 Addison St
Berkeley City Council votes on a resolution endorsing a ceasefire, arms embargo, and Palestinian self-determination.

WANT TO JOIN

STUDENTS ORGANIZING SOL FOR LIBERATION

We are a student-led group of campus-community members organizing to resist UC Berkeley's and the UC's imperialist, zionist, and oppressive projects.